

Shenandoah

church of Christ

TRIUMPH

“Do you know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it” (1 Cor. 9:24)

Matthew 23 (1)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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What About Higher Values?

The result of not promoting or practicing critical thinking skills, which involves investigating and questioning things for the sake of clarity and truth, is we become parrots of other men's thoughts and actions (cf. Jn. 8:44). This is exactly what the Pharisees and scribes did. They promoted themselves and their ideas, and discouraged people to think for themselves. This resulted in “the blind leading the blind and both falling into the ditch” (Matt. 15: 14). In Matthew 23, Jesus gave compelling views and arguments as to the brute and insidious nature of the Jewish religious leaders. Their desire for power, which led to man-made traditions, was their only objective to enslave the Jewish populace. Jesus was keen on what was happening and exposed the treacherous acts of these men.

Jesus began with the Pharisees and scribe's motivation in verses 1-10. Their thirst for power was clearly evident as Jesus said of them, “*The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat*” (v.1). (This was in stark contrast to the one sent from God, the Son of God, humbling himself and living a meager and poor life among the people, Phil. 2:4-9; Isa. 53:1-3).

Their desire to be in the spotlight became their only motivation - “*But all their works they do for to be seen of*

men” (v.5a). Therefore, they presented themselves as being “holy” by “*making broad their phylacteries, and enlarging the borders of their garments*” (v. 5b). This led to their self-aggrandizement as they “*loved the uppermost rooms at feasts, chief seats in the synagogues, and being greeted in the marketplace with the appellations: Rabbi and Father*” (vss. 6-9).

But Jesus made it very clear that their honoring of self belied their pride and arrogance, which could be seen through their actions. In other words, it doesn't matter how good one can decorate himself, our true nature will always be revealed. This is why Jesus said, “*All therefore whatsoever they bid you...but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers*” (vss. 3-4).

Jesus noted what makes someone special is not their looks, nor their position of authority, rather what they do, their actions. Do their actions support the true message of God, or do their actions support only their interests? This behavior only seeks to stimulate puppets, not critical thinkers. May God be praised!

Solomon's Warnings (3)

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

Our condolences are extended to the Wilks family. Sister Edna passed away on Wednesday evening. Funeral plans are pending.

The Sunny Glen Children's Home is requesting Fabric Softener sheets and Pie Filling. The truck will be here between December 15-17. As before, you can donate funds by giving it to one of our elders, memo your check for Sunny Glenn, or purchase these items on your own and place it in the library. The donated funds will be used to purchase the items in bulk from Sam's Club. Thank you.

YOUTH

There will be no youth devotional for the month of November.

YOUNG ADULT

Our young adult Christmas party will be announced soon.

AREA NEWS

See Bulletin Board for area wide meetings.

Finally in chapter 7, Solomon culminates his warning to his son(s) concerning the destructive nature of the "*strange woman*" (v. 5). The dangers of this type of woman is both physically and spiritually destructive. So, once again, Solomon commanded his son to take heed unto the commandments of God and obey them (vss. 1-4).

The "*strange woman*" lurks and desires a victim to satisfy her immoral pleasures of adultery (v. 5b-6). But the strange woman looks for a "*simpleton...void of understanding*" (v. 7). In other words, she looks for a person who doesn't use his mental faculties, rather one who pleasures himself physically and emotionally. Hence, as she "*passes through the street near her corner...in the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night...behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtle of heart*" (vss. 8-10). She uses her physical attractions to prick the physical and emotional needs of the male, and she does this without impunity (vss. 11-12) as she "*catches and kisses him,*" throwing herself at him (v. 13, e.g., Gen. 39:7).

She then makes an enticing case for all night passion and sex as she reassures the simpleton of the absence of her husband: "*For the goodman is not a home, he is gone a long journey: He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed*" (vss. 19-20). After her persuasive speech, coupled with

her physical attractions, the simpleton "*yields to her flattering lips*" (v.21). But the simpleton doesn't know and understand, (or chooses not to know and understand because his emotional and physical pleasure system is all he's thinking with), the gravity and seriousness of his decision: "*an ox that goes to the slaughter, or a fool to the correction of the stocks*" (v. 21). As we learned last week, the (knowingly or unknowingly) deceived male will enter a situation where he might be confronted by an angry husband, or in the end, by an angry God, and suffer the consequences of his decision. This is why Solomon ended by making an earnest plea to his son: "*Hearken unto me therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth. Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths. For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her. Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death*" (vss. 24-27). The ways of an adulterous woman are destructive. Her ability to take down, even the strongest of men, is evident. This is why at all times, we must be watchful and use our minds to avoid situations that will bring us harm and pain.

In the end, everyone is responsible for themselves. We all must practice self-control and make decisions that will affect our family, friends, and loved ones in a positive way. This life is about remaining faithful to God and others. May God be praised! GR

WHAT SAITH THE LORD?

Nearly two thousand years ago an important question was raised before the Apostles after they had delivered the good news of Jesus's life, death, burial, and resurrection (Acts 2:21-36). The hearer's conscience were pricked of sinful conduct (2 Cor. 7: 10-11) and asked: "*Men and brethren, what shall we do* (in order to be saved)? (Acts 2:37). Without hesitation, Peter elevated his voice and proclaimed: "*Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*" (Acts 2:38).

Upon hearing the words of Peter, the people obeyed. This demonstrated their belief in Christ (Jn. 8:24). Hence, they repented of sin and confessed allegiance to the name of Christ (Matt. 10:32-33). Afterwards, the people were baptized for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:41, cf. Mrk. 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21).

The people's submission to the words of salvation granted them a relationship with God the Father by accessing citizenship into the church of Christ (Acts 2:47, cf. Matt. 16:18; Mrk. 9:1; Acts. 2:1-4). As a member of Christ's body (Acts 8:4) the people were then encouraged to live faithful unto death by conquering sin in their lives (Rev. 2:10; Rom. 6: 4-12; 2 Tim. 4: 6-8). We then await for the coming day in which all men shall be judged the word of God (Jn 12:48; Acts 17:30-31; 2 Cor. 5:10). Will we be ready?

SHEPHERD'S CORNER

What About Higher Values?

No man is more ingrained in poverty than one who has only money! I don't wish to die that poor. It was to such a one that our Lord said, "Thou fool, this night is thy soul required of thee: then whose shall these things be which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God" (Lk. 12:20-21). I pray that I am never so poor in spiritual wealth that I serve mammon; for the Lord declared: "No man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Mt. 6:24).

Mammon is the god of material wealth. How poor I would be if the Lord should say to me: "Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days" (Jas. 5:2-3). I am resolved that I shall not die in such spiritual poverty as that!

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. and having food and raiment let us be therewith content" (1 Tim . 6:6-8).

Bro. W. Holmes

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

BISHOPS/SHEPHERDS/ELDERS

(1 Tim. 3: 1-6)

Brother Elwyn Hipp (830) 510-6311,
Brother Wayne Holmes (210) 696-8597

DEACON

(Acts 6: 1-5; 1
Tim. 3: 7-12)

Brother Raul Baltierra
(210) 843-9730

GOSPEL PREACHER

(1 Cor. 9:1-16; 1 Tim.
4:6; 2 Tim. 4: 2-5)

Brother Gabriel Rodriguez
(210)315-4453



November 22

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Mora*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Lord's Supper: *A. Maldonado; S. Hernandez; T. Mayces; N. Esenowo*

Scripture: *1 Cor. 11:23-29*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *E. Lerma*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*
 Opening Prayer: *T. Mayces*
 Song Leader: *E. Hipp*
 Lord's Supper: *M. de la Garza; R. Baltierra*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra Jr.*

After Greeter: *G & D Gribble*
 Greeter/Usher: *R. Baltierra*
 AV Duty: *M. de la Garza*
 Elder in charge: *W. Holmes*

REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED

(by writing, calling, and praying)

Wayne Holmes
 Juanita Mahan
 Richard Rodriguez
 Rina White
 Joe Guillen
 Sarah Cannon
 Olga (Joe's mother-in-law)
 Ina Dial
 David Sudhoff
 Elijah Sudhoff
 Roy Guajardo (battling Parkinsons)
 Rose Scott (grandmother of Clay and Wes Bond)
 Caral O'Banon

BATTLING CANCER:

Barbara Oakes Johna Dorries
 Abigail Reyes Graciola Anderson
 Lydia Cowan George Jackson
 Briana Nieves Sonny Cary
 Elwyn Hipp Gwen Parker

SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper
 Mary Louese Hughes
 Dazel Ball
 Mildred Geest

TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan); Joe and Nadia Guillen; Celia Empett; Mayces

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES NOVEMBER

Organizing Monthly Luncheon: *Baltierra*
 Preparing Lord's Supper: *Open*
 Auditorium Service Duties: *Open*
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry room *Open*
 Brother in charge of services: *Open*

AM Theme:
"Praising God" - A Study in the book of Psalms
 PM Theme:
Setting the Church in Order - A Study in the books of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus

AM Sermon:

Psalm 29

PM Sermon:

Protecting the Reputation of God (2)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

November 25: *R. Baltierra Jr.*

December 2: *T. Mayces*

December 9: *A. Maldonado*

FOR THE RECORD

November 22

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 39
 Sunday AM Worship 61
 Sunday PM Worship 29
 Wednesday Bible Study 37
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,450.00/ \$1,825.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: NA (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

Sunday: Bible Study at 9:30 am; Worship at 10:30 am;
 Worship at 5:00 pm.

Wednesday: Bible Study at 7:00 pm